

CLAIMS

We claim:

1 1. A method for displaying the status of tasks, comprising
2 the steps of:

3 displaying in a progress control bar a progress bar and
4 a first action button;

5 said progress bar visually representing progress of a
6 primary background operation; and

7 said action button selectable by a user for initiating
8 an action with respect to said primary background
9 operation.

1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 displaying said progress control bar in a status bar.

1 3. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of
2 overwriting said progress bar with a caption describing said

3 primary background operation.

1 4. The method of claim 2, further comprising the step
2 responsive to user selection of said action button of
3 halting said primary background operation.

1 5. The method of claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

2 executing at least one secondary background operation;

3 displaying a second action button in said progress
4 control bar;

5 responsive to user selection of said second action
6 button, displaying a drop list of second progress
7 control bars, with one second progress control bar for
8 each said secondary background operation.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step
2 responsive to a subsequent user selection of said second
3 action button of collapsing said drop list.

1 7. The method of claim 5, each said second progress
2 control bar including for a corresponding secondary
3 background operation an action button and a caption

4 overwriting a progress bar.

1 8. The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

2 responsive to said primary operation completing or
3 being canceled, replacing said progress control bar in
4 said status bar for said primary operation with a
5 progress control bar for a secondary operation.

1 9. A method for displaying the status of a plurality of
2 threaded tasks operating in the background, comprising the
3 steps of:

4 displaying in a status bar a progress control bar a
5 progress bar and a first action button;

6 said progress bar visually representing progress of a
7 primary background operation;

8 said action button selectable by a user for initiating
9 an cancel action with respect to said primary
10 background operation.

11 overwriting said progress bar with a caption describing
12 said primary background operation;

13 executing at least one secondary background operation;

14 displaying a second action button in said progress

15 control bar;

16 responsive to user selection of said second action

17 button, displaying a drop list of second progress

18 control bars, with one second progress control bar for

19 each said secondary background operation and including

20 a third cancel action button and a corresponding

21 caption overwriting a corresponding progress bar;

22 responsive to a subsequent user selection of said

23 second action button, collapsing said drop list; and

24 responsive to said primary operation completing or

25 being canceled, replacing said progress control bar in

26 said status bar for said primary operation with a

27 progress control bar for a secondary operation.

1 10. System for displaying the status of tasks operating in

2 the background, comprising:

3 a status bar;

4 a progress control bar in said status bar including a
5 progress bar and a first action button;

6 said progress bar visually representing progress of a
7 primary background operation; and

8 said action button selectable by a user for initiating
9 an action with respect to said primary background
10 operation.

1 11. The system of claim 10, said progress control bar
2 further comprising a caption overwriting said progress bar
3 for describing said primary background operation.

1 12. The system of claim 10, said action button being
2 responsive to user selection for halting said primary
3 background operation.

1 13. The system of claim 12, further comprising a second
2 button in said progress control bar responsive to user
3 selection for alternately displaying and collapsing a drop
4 list of second progress control bars, with one second
5 progress control bar for each of one or more secondary
6 background operations.

1 14. The system of claim 13, each said second progress
2 control bar including for a corresponding secondary
3 background operation an action button and a caption
4 overwriting a progress bar.

1 15. A program storage device readable by a machine,
2 tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a
3 machine to perform method steps for displaying the status of
4 tasks, said method steps comprising:

5 displaying in a progress control bar a progress bar and
6 a first action button;

7 said progress bar visually representing progress of a
8 primary background operation; and

9 said action button selectable by a user for initiating
10 an action with respect to said primary background
11 operation.

1 16. The program storage device of claim 15, said method
2 steps further comprising displaying said progress control
3 bar in a status bar and overwriting said progress bar with a
4 caption describing said primary background operation.

1 17. The program storage device of claim 16, said method
2 steps further comprising the step responsive to user
3 selection of said action button of halting said primary
4 background operation.

1 18. The program storage device of claim 16, said method
2 steps further comprising the steps of:

3 executing at least one secondary background operation;

4 displaying a second action button in said progress
5 control bar;

6 responsive to user selection of said second action
7 button, displaying a drop list of second progress
8 control bars, with one second progress control bar for
9 each said secondary background operation.

1 19. The program storage device of claim 18, said method
2 steps further comprising the step responsive to a subsequent
3 user selection of said second action button of collapsing
4 said drop list.

1 20. The program storage device of claim 18, each said
2 second progress control bar including for a corresponding

3 secondary background operation an action button and a
4 caption overwriting a progress bar.

1 21. The program storage device of claim 19, said method
2 steps further comprising the steps of:

3 responsive to said primary operation completing or
4 being canceled, replacing said progress control bar in
5 said status bar for said primary operation with a
6 progress control bar for a secondary operation.

1 22. A computer program product or computer program element
2 for displaying the status of tasks according to method steps
3 comprising:

4 displaying in a progress control bar a progress bar and
5 a first action button;

6 said progress bar visually representing progress of a
7 primary background operation; and

8 said action button selectable by a user for initiating
9 an action with respect to said primary background
10 operation.

1 23. A system for displaying the status of a plurality of
2 threaded tasks operating in the background, comprising a
3 status bar; a progress control bar in the status bar for a
4 primary task operating in the background and including a
5 progress bar and first and second action buttons; the
6 progress bar visually representing progress of a primary
7 background operation; said first action button being
8 selectable by a user for initiating an action with respect
9 to said primary background operation and said second action
10 button being selectable by a user for alternately displaying
11 and canceling a drop list of secondary progress control bars
12 for secondary tasks also operating in the background.